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Jammu Lt Col Arthi Tiwari and Lt Col Rohina Varghese who have received Permanent Commission in the Army | PTI

422 WOMEN OFFICERS ELIGIBLE FOR PERMANENT COMMISSION

Of the 615 women officers considered for permanent commission, 422 were found fit by the Army Selection Board

MORE OFFICERS UNDER CONSIDERATION

However, as many as 57 of the 422 opted out of PC. Of the 193 who were found ineligible, 68 are being released with pension, a senior Army officer said. And 106 others have been given a pensionable service extension of up to 20 years. Apart from the 615, another 42 officers, currently on medical leave, are to be considered for PC at a later date

'A MILESTONE FOR WOMEN IN SERVICES'

- "This is another milestone for the women in services," a serving women officer said. "Women at the junior level are going to rise and serve at the ranks of General in future," she added
- The Supreme Court, in a landmark ruling in February, said women officers are entitled to permanent commission in the Army

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STREAMS OF INDIAN ARMY OPENED TO WOMEN OFFICERS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

ELDERS FIGHT OVER CHAIRMAN'S SEAT, JOSTLE EACH OTHER IN HOUSE

Presiding officer stopped from entering Council; Cong MLCs push Dy Chairman out of chair

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Legislative Council, referred to as the 'Upper House' or 'House of Elders' where meaningful discussions are held in a refined and composed manner, witnessed unprecedented, unruly free-for-all on Tuesday with the ruling and opposition parties fighting for the chairman's post.

The BJP and Congress members almost came to blows after the ruling party MLCs insisted on moving a no-confidence motion against Chairman Prathap Chandra Shetty amid stiff opposition from the opposition party. Congress members physically removed Deputy Chairman S L Dharme Gowda from the chair to allow one of its members to occupy it after BJP legislators tried to close the door from which the chairman enters the House to prevent him from presiding over the proceedings.

The House was adjourned sine die on December 10, and the government convened it for a day on Tuesday after accusing the chairman of adjourning the Council abruptly and requesting Governor Vajubhai Vala to intervene. The session on Tuesday was adjourned sine die after the high drama that lasted for 40 minutes prevented the House from transacting any business.

The members, jostling to take control of the chairman's chair, shouted slogans, tore and threw copies of the proceedings, climbed on the tables, removed the Covid glass shield installed on the chairman's desk, and kicked the door through which the Chairman enters the House. P4

Legislative Council members spar in the well of the House after Deputy Chairman S L Dharme Gowda sits on the Chairman's seat, on Tuesday | BASAVARAJA GADIGAL

GOVT MULLS ORDINANCE ON CATTLE BILL

After the State Legislative Council proceedings were adjourned on Tuesday following a tussle between the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress, the state government is now considering promulgating an ordinance on the Anti-Cow Slaughter Bill. However, the JDS has made it clear that it will not support the Anti-Cow Slaughter Bill. P4

BJP seeks Guv's intervention to convene House

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BJP members in the Legislative Council on Tuesday appealed to Governor Vajubhai Vala to direct the Chairman of the Upper House to convene the House, and allow them to move a no-confidence motion against the latter.

In a memorandum to Vala after the House was adjourned sine die on Tuesday, BJP members said that as per Article 182 of the Constitution, a no-confidence motion has to be placed before the House 14 days after it is issued. If such a motion is introduced against the chairman, he shall not preside over the House, and the deputy chairman should preside. Any communication made by him, will be deemed illegal.

The chairman can neither preside over the Business Advisory Committee, nor sit in authority, since a no-confidence motion was being moved against him. P4

On the 20th day of their ongoing agitation, farmers squat at the Ghazipur border, in New Delhi on Tuesday | PARVEEN NEGI

Agitators harden stance

Concrete proposals: Farmer leaders refused to yield, saying they will completely block the Chilla Border between Delhi and Noida on Wednesday. They said the govt must consider their demands and offer concrete proposals

Staying firm: "The govt is saying 'we won't repeal', we are saying we will make you do it... fight has reached a stage where we are determined to win no matter what," said farmer leader Jagjeet Singh Dallewal

Homage day: Union leaders on Tuesday gave a nationwide call to observe Shraddhanjali Diwas on December 20 from 11 am to 1 pm to pay tribute to the farmers who lost their lives during the ongoing protests

Plot to confuse farmers on three laws, says Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi/Chandigarh

ON a day Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the ongoing agitation against the three farm sector laws was instigated by vested interests, farmers dug in their heels, claiming their support base had actually expanded.

While Modi said there was a conspiracy to scare farmers about their land holding, the protesting unions alleged that the government was trying to drive a wedge between them. Speaking in Kutch (Gujarat), Modi rhetorically asked: "When dairies get into contracts for milk, do they take away even the cattle?" He sought to allay the fears of farmers, adding land rights will be protected.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the new legislations has merely included demands of the farmers' bodies to revloutionise the agriculture sector, adding they were advocated by opposition parties in the past as well.

Later in the day, farmers' unions wrote to the Centre rejecting the proposal to amend to the three laws and insisting on their repeal. "We had already rejected their proposal. This evening, we wrote to them officially stating our position," said Harinder Singh Lakhowal, general secretary of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Lakhowal).

The unions also decided to observe December 20 as homage day as a mark of respect for the 20 protesters who have so far died. "This homage will be given in every village across the country on December 20. Around 20 farmers have died during protest," said Inderjeet Singh, a farmer leader.

Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar continued to hold deliberations with a section of farmers, as he met leaders of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Kisan). "The farmers who came today support the three farm laws. They said they had been earlier misled because of the misconceptions," Tomar told reporters. He had earlier met representatives of farmers from Uttarakhand and Haryana, who, too, pledged their support to the farm laws. P9

OCI students eligible for govt quota seats: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Tuesday held that Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders need not seek admission only under the quota meant for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) students in professional educational institutions (medical/dental or engineering colleges), but are eligible for admission under institutional as well as State Government quota seats.

A division bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and N S Sanjay Gowda pronounced the judgement and confirmed an order passed by a single judge directing the State and the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) to permit the petitioners to register for CET.

Allowing the petitions filed by Pranav Bajpe and others, who are OCI cardholders, the Bench quashed Section 2(1)(n) of the Karnataka Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission & Determination of Fee) Act, 2006, as amended in 2017, to include 'Overseas Citizens of India' or 'Overseas Citizens of India Cardholders' within the definition of 'Non-Resident Indian'.

"We would like to remind ourselves of the ancient Indian thought, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', which means 'the world is a family'. The minor children of Indian citizens born overseas must have the same status, rights and duties as Indian citizens, who are minors," the Bench said.

CONTINUED ON P7

BORIS

TO BE CHIEF GUEST AT REPUBLIC DAY PARADE

It will be the UK PM's first major foreign trip since taking office last year. He has invited India to join the 2021 G7 meet to be hosted by the UK | P9

EXPRESS READ

AAP to contest UP Assembly polls

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will contest the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls in 2022, its national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Tuesday as he accused political parties in the state of doing nothing but stabbing people in the back. In a virtual press briefing, Kejriwal said development and progress in UP have been held back by its "dirty politics" and "corrupt leaders".

After collegium nod, AP, Telangana, Odisha, Sikkim set to get new CJs

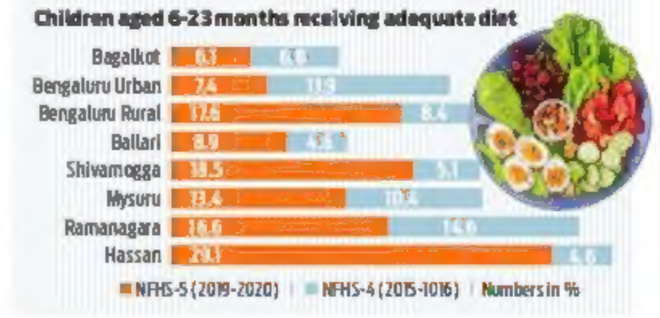
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi/Vijayawada

THE high courts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and Sikkim are all set to get new chief justices as part of a shuffle in the higher judiciary. Sources confirmed that the five-member collegium of the Supreme Court cleared the proposals on Monday. They also involve a swap between Sikkim High Court Chief Justice Arup Kumar Goswami and his Andhra Pradesh counterpart, Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari.

Delhi High Court judge Hima Kohli is expected to be elevated as the Chief Justice of Telangana, replacing Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chouhan who has been reportedly transferred to Uttarakhand. Justice Chouhan was appointed CJ of the Telangana High Court in June 2019.

The collegium discussed the proposals for a long time, sources said, adding that it sent the recommendations to the government on Tuesday. Orders to this effect and official notifications are expected to be issued shortly after the government approves the recommendations.

Justice Maheshwari assumed charge at the Andhra High Court on October 7, 2019 as its first Chief Justice after the High Court of Judicature in Hyderabad was divided between Andhra and Telangana. His tenure turned out to be eventful as the high court under his leadership handled some of the most sensitive cases, including the Jagan Mohan Reddy government's decision to have three capitals for AP. P7


Children aged 6-23 months receiving adequate diet
Bagalkot 8.1 6.6
Bengaluru Urban 7.4 11.9
Bengaluru Rural 17.8 8.4
Ballari 8.9 4.1
Shivamogga 18.5 5.1
Mysuru 13.4 10.8
Ramanagara 16.6 14.6
Hassan 23.3 6.0
NFHS-5 (2019-2020) NFHS-4 (2015-1016) Numbers in %

Only 7.4% children get adequate diet in B'luru

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

IT is shocking to say the least. The 'IT Capital of India' has only 7.4 per cent of children in the 6-23 month age group receiving adequate, nutritional diet in 2019-2020, reveals the district-wise sheet of National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5).

The survey stated that the present figures are worse than what they were five years ago (in 2015-2016 under NFHS-4), when 13.9 per cent of children under the age group receiving adequate diet. Experts said the numbers are shocking and advised the government to carry out awareness campaigns on nutritional food required for children.

According to the Optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYVF) practices, the children in the 6-23 month age group should be given complementary foods along with breastfeeding to meet the diet requirement.

Apart from breastfeed, children are required to consume four more food groups. Group one includes grains, roots, tubers, legumes and nuts; Group 2 has dairy products; Group 3 includes eggs, while Group 4 has fruits and vegetables that are vitamin A rich.

Dr Sylvia Karpagam, a public health doctor and researcher, said, "Children who are six to eight months old and are breastfed also require two meals from the IYVF group. Children in the 9-23 month age group require three meals per day along with breastfeeding." P7

Winter Session deferred

NEW DELHI: The Winter Session of Parliament will not be held this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Budget Session will be convened in January 2021, the Union Government has conveyed to the Opposition. Meanwhile, the Congress has slammed the move as the "decimation of parliamentary democracy". The Winter Session normally starts in the last week of November or in the first week of December. P9

TELL-ALL BOOK

Pranab's son, daughter in Twitter spat over memoir

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

LATE former President Pranab Mukherjee's son Abhijit and daughter Sharmistha, both Congress leaders, were on Tuesday locked in a Twitter spat over their dad's memoir in which blamed party chief Sonia Gandhi and former prime minister Manmohan Singh for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections defeat.

Days after Rupa Publications released excerpts of the fourth volume of Pranab Mukherjee's *The Presidential Years*, Abhijit said he wanted to vet the book before it hits the stands in January. Hours later, Sharmistha told him off, asking him not to create hurdles in its publication.

For its part, Rupa Publications declined comment. But sources in Pranab's staff said that he has approved the final draft as also the book's cover just before he was hospitalised in August last.

"I, the son of the author of the Memoir 'The Presidential Memoirs' request you to kindly stop the publication of the memoir as well as motivated excerpts which is already floating in certain media platforms without my written consent," said Abhijit, a former Congress member of Parliament.

Sharmistha shot back and said, "I, daughter of the author of the memoir 'The Presidential Years', request my brother not to create any unnecessary hurdles in publication of the last book written by our father. He completed the manuscript before he fell sick. The final draft contains my dads' handwritten notes and comments that have been strictly adhered to. The views expressed by him are his own & no one should try to stop it from being published for any cheap publicity. That would be the greatest disservice to our departed father."